

# A BILL

FOR AN ACT DECLARING TELEGRAPH COMPANIES AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES TO BE COMMON CARRIERS AND SUBJECT TO THE LAWS GOVERNING COMMON CARRIERS SO FAR AS APPLICABLE AND PLACING TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES OPERATING WITHIN THIS STATE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS AND GIVING TO SUCH RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS POWER AND AUTHORITY TO INQUIRE INTO UNJUST DISCRIMINATION, NEGLECT OR VIOLATION OF THE LAWS GOVERNING COMMON CARRIERS AND TO COMPEL SUCH TELEGRAPH OF TELEPHONE COMPANIES TO MAKE DIRECT CONNECTION AT POINTS WHERE COMPETING COMPANIES HAVE OFFICES OR TERMINALS. (ADDITIONAL TO CHAPTER EIGHT (8) OF TITLE TEN (10) OF THE CODE.)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. All telegraph or telephone companies operating and doing business in this state are hereby declared to be common carriers, and all laws, so far as applicable, now in force or hereafter to be enacted regulating common carriers and regarding the transportation of property by railroad and express companies shall apply with equal force and effect to telegraph and telephone companies.

Sec. 2. The railroad commissioners of this state shall have general supervision of all telegraph and telephone companies operating and doing business in this state, and shall inquire into any unjust discrimination, neglect or violation of the laws of this state governing common carriers, in so far as applicable to telegraph or telephone companies, by any telegraph or telephone company, or by the officers, agents or employes thereof and said railroad commissioners are empowered and directed to make for each telegraph company and telephone company, as soon as practicable, as schedule of reasonable maximum charges or rates for transmitting communications and intelligence usually transmitted by such companies in their course of business, and the board of railroad commissioners shall have power and authority to compel such telegraph and telephone companies competing at any point, or having offices or terminals in the same town or place, to make direct connection so as to afford to the people of the state the most direct and expeditious communication by telegraph or telephone between different communities thereof.